

Notice of Public Hearing (August 30, 2010)

Proposed 401 Water Quality Certification for Maintenance Dredging of the Federal Navigation Channel in the Lower Willamette River at Post Office Bar



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

The purpose of this notice is to invite you to attend a public meeting and provide comments pertaining to concerns about potential impacts that may result from the proposed dredging and dredged material placement.

DEQ's Role:

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is the regulatory agency that helps protect and preserve Oregon's environment. DEQ is responsible for protecting and enhancing Oregon's water and air quality, for cleaning up spills and releases of hazardous materials, and for managing the proper disposal of hazardous and solid wastes. One way that DEQ protects Oregon's water quality is by issuing Section 401 certifications. Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act requires Federal agencies to obtain a water quality certification from the State of Oregon if their proposed activity may result in a discharge to surface waters. The certification states that the discharge will comply with applicable sections of the Clean Water Act. On dredging projects, DEQ also ensures that the disposal or use of dredged sediments will not have an adverse impact on human health or the environment.

Hearing Details:

Date: Aug. 30, 2010

Information Session: 6:00 p.m.

Hearing: 6:30 p.m.

Location:

University of Oregon Portland Building
Room: 142/144,
70 NW Couch St.
Portland, OR

Comments Due:

Sept. 6, 2010, by 5 p.m.

How can I comment?

You can provide written or spoken comments at the public hearing. DEQ also accepts comments by mail, fax and e-mail:

401 Public Comments
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Northwest Region
2020 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 400
Portland, Oregon 97201

Fax: 503-229-6957

E-mail: 401publiccomments@deq.state.or.us

Where can I get more information?

To review the project details and DEQ's evaluation, go to:

http://www.deq.state.or.us/news/publicnotices/uploaded/100730_430_100729_5157_PO%20Bar%20PN%20draft%20findings%20draft%20cert.pdf

Or follow these hyperlinks:

[Draft Evaluation and Findings document](#) and
[Draft Certification Letter](#)

The draft Environmental Assessment is available for viewing on the US Army Corps of Engineers' website at:

http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/pm/e/docs/PO_Bar_Draft_EA.pdf

You can review all related documents in the file at the Northwest Region DEQ office in Portland. For a review appointment, call Marjorie Holland at 503 229-6826.

**Northwest Region
401 Water Quality
Certification program**
2020 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97201
Phone: (503) 229-5263
(800) 452-4011
Fax: (503) 229-5850
Contact:
L. Alexandra Liverman

www.oregon.gov/DEQ

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subscriptions@deq.state.or.us

Please include your full name, e-mail address and mailing address so that we can purge you from our print mailing list, thus saving trees and taxpayer dollars.

What is proposed?

In order to maintain safe navigation within the Federal Navigation Channel of the Willamette River, the US Army Corps of Engineers is proposing to remove approximately 75,000 cubic yards of material which has built up at an inside bend on the east bank of the river in an area known as known as Post Office Bar, which is located within the Portland Harbor Superfund Site at approximately river mile 2+00 to 2+30. This area was last dredged in 1989.

The material contains DDT, PCBs, Cadmium, and Zinc at levels that exceed in-water screening criteria and will be removed using a closed-lipped, environmental, clamshell bucket to a depth of approximately -42 feet (including 2 feet of advanced maintenance dredging). Dredged material will be placed on a watertight barge for transport to the Port of Portland's West Hayden Island Placement Facility, where it will be offloaded using a mechanical pump. Contaminants in the material meet screening levels for upland use at this location. None of the water removed in association with the dredged material will be allowed to discharge to waters of the state. DEQ has issued a Beneficial Use Determination to the Port of Portland for use of the dredged material as construction fill at this location.

Certification duration

The proposed 401 Water Quality Certification would be effective for five years, but it is anticipated that the dredging and disposal would be completed in the fall of 2010.

Who is the applicant?

US Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CENWP-PM-E
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946

Attn: Carolyn Schneider

Who might have an interest?

People who work, live, and recreate in the area.

What legal requirements apply?

Federal Clean Water Act
Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 468B and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 340 Division 48 give DEQ the authority to issue certifications.
OAR 340-093-260 through 340-093-290 give DEQ the authority to issue Solid Waste Beneficial Use Determinations.

What happens after the public comment period closes?

DEQ considers and responds to all comments received. DEQ may modify the proposed 401 Water Quality Certification decision in response to the comments.

Accessibility information

DEQ is committed to accommodating people with disabilities. Please notify DEQ of any special physical or language accommodations or if you need information in large print, Braille or another format. To make these arrangements, contact DEQ Communications & Outreach (503) 229-5696 or toll free in Oregon at (800) 452-4011; fax to 503-229-6762; or e-mail to deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.

People with hearing impairments may call 711.

